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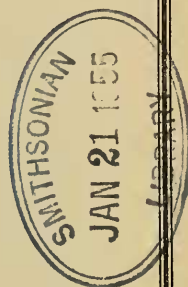
# OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

*Edited by*

**FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.**

Secretary to the Commission

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## OPINION 314

Validation, under the Plenary Powers, of the specific name *acuminata* Ioff & Tiflov, 1946, as published in the combination *Rhadinopsylla (Rectofrontia) acuminata*, as applied to the species numbered "66" by those authors (Class Insecta, Order Siphonaptera)

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# INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

## COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 314

### A. The Officers of the Commission

*Honorary Life President* : Dr. Karl Jordan (*British Museum (Natural History),  
Zoological Museum, Tring, Herts., England*).

*President* : (Vacant).

*Vice-President* : Senhor Dr. Afranio do Amaral (*Sao Paulo, Brazil*).

*Secretary* : Mr. Francis Hemming (*London, England*).

### B. The Members of the Commission

(arranged in order of precedence by reference to date of election or of most recent re-election, as prescribed by the International Congress of Zoology).

Senhor Dr. Afranio do AMARAL (*S. Paulo, Brazil*) (*Vice-President*) (1st January 1944).

Professor J. R. DYMOND (*University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada*) (1st January 1944).

Professor J. Chester BRADLEY (*Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y., U.S.A.*) (28th March 1944).

Professor Harold E. VOKES (*Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.*) (23rd April 1944).

Dr. William Thomas CALMAN (*Coulsdon, Surrey, England*) (1st January 1947).

Professor Béla HANKÓ (*Békéscsaba, Hungary*) (1st January 1947).

Dr. Norman R. STOLL (*Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, New York, N. Y., U.S.A.*) (1st January 1947).

Professor H. BOSCHMA (*Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands*) (1st January 1947).

Senor Dr. Angel CABRERA (*Eva Peron, F.C.N.G.R., Argentina*) (27th July 1948).

Mr. Francis HEMMING (*London, England*) (*Secretary*) (27th July 1948).

Dr. Joseph PEARSON (*Tasmanian Museum, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia*) (27th July 1948).

Dr. Henning LEMCHE (*Universitetets Zoologiske Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark*) (27th July 1948).

Professor Teiso ESAKI (*Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan*) (17th April 1950).

Professor Pierre BONNET (*Université de Toulouse, France*) (9th June 1950).

Mr. Norman Denbigh RILEY (*British Museum (Natural History), London*) (9th June 1950).

Professor Tadeusz JACZEWSKI (*Department of Systematic Zoology, Warsaw University, Warsaw, Poland*) (15th June 1950).

Professor Robert MERTENS (*Natur-Museum u. Forschungs-Institut Senckenberg, Frankfurt a. M., Germany*) (5th July 1950).

Professor Erich Martin HERING (*Zoologisches Museum der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany*) (5th July 1950).

## OPINION 314

VALIDATION, UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS, OF THE SPECIFIC NAME "ACUMINATA" IOFF & TIFLOV, 1946, AS PUBLISHED IN THE COMBINATION "RHADINOPSYLLA (RECTOFRONTIA) ACUMINATA", AS APPLIED TO THE SPECIES NUMBERED "66" BY THOSE AUTHORS (CLASS INSECTA, ORDER SIPHONAPTERA)

**RULING** :—(1) Under the Plenary Powers, (a) the specific name *acuminata* Ioff & Tiflov, 1946, as inadvertently published in the combination *Rhadinopsylla (Rectofrontia) acuminata* and applied to the species there cited by those authors under the number "62" is hereby suppressed for the purposes both of the Law of Priority and of the Law of Homonymy, and (b) the same specific name (i) as published by the foregoing authors on the same page of the same work and in the same combination and (ii) as deliberately applied by those authors to the species cited by them under the number "66" is hereby validated.

(2) The under-mentioned specific names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* as Names Nos. 180 and 181 respectively : (a) the specific name *acuminata* Ioff & Tiflov, 1946, as published in the combination *Rhadinopsylla (Rectofrontia) acuminata*, as applied by the authors to the species there numbered "66", and as validated, under the Plenary Powers, under (1)(b) above ; (b) the subspecific name *transbaikalica* Ioff & Tiflov, 1946, as published in the combination *Rhadinopsylla (Ralipsylla) li transbaikalica*, as a substitute name for *Rhadinopsylla (Rectofrontia) acuminata*, a name (i) applied in error to the species numbered "62" by the foregoing authors and (b) suppressed, under the Plenary Powers, under (1)(a) above.

(3) The under-mentioned specific name is hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* as Name No. 86 :—the specific name *acuminata* Ioff & Tiflov, 1946, as published in the combination *Rhadinopsylla (Rectofrontia) acuminata* and applied by the foregoing authors to the species numbered “ 62 ” by them, as suppressed, under the Plenary Powers, under (1)(a) above.

### I.—THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 14th September 1950, Mr. G. H. E. Hopkins (*British Museum (Natural History), Zoological Museum, Tring, Herts, England*) submitted the following application in which he drew attention to the fact by some inadvertence Ioff and Tiflov had in 1946 published the specific name *acuminata* in the combination *Rhadinopsylla (Rectofrontia) acuminata* as a name for two species of fleas on the same page of the same work and asked that the Commission should use its Plenary Powers for the purpose of validating the second of the two foregoing usages of the above name, it being evident that this was the usage which had been intended by these authors :—

Proposed use of the Plenary Powers to validate the specific trivial name  
 “ *acuminata* ” Ioff & Tiflov, as published in the combination  
 “ *Rhadinopsylla (Rectofrontia) acuminata* ” as applied to the  
 species numbered “ 66 ” by those authors (Class Insecta,  
 Order Siphonaptera)

By G. H. E. HOPKINS, O.B.E., M.A.

(*British Museum (Natural History), Zoological Museum, Tring, Herts.*)

1. Ioff (*in* Ioff, Tiflov, *et al.*, 1946, *Med. Parasitol. Moscow*, 15 (No. 4) : 91) published a subgenus *Ralipsylla* of *Rhadinopsylla*. On the following page he and other authors published numerous new species or subspecies which are numbered, numbers 60, 61 and 63 being referred to the subgenus *Ralipsylla* and 64 to 68 inclusive to the subgenus *Rectofrontia*. But both No. 62 and No. 66 are called “ *Rhadinopsylla (Rectofrontia) acuminata* Ioff et Tiflov ”, and this is the first time

this name has been published. Obviously one of these duplicate names must be a *lapsus calami*, and it is clear from the context which is the error, because No. 62 is sandwiched in among forms of *Ralipsylla* whereas No. 66 is correctly placed among forms of *Rectofrontia*; it is, therefore No. 66 to which the name *acuminata* was intended to apply. Moreover, in the separates of the paper (but not in the original publication) the name of No. 62 is altered in manuscript, presumably by Professor Ioff, to *Rhadinopsylla (Ralipsylla) li transbaikalica* Ioff et Tiflov. This manuscript alteration does not, of course, constitute publication, but in No. 6 of the same periodical and volume, also published in 1946, there is ( :94) a list of corrections of misprints in the original paper, among which is the statement that the name of species No. 62 on p. 92 of the original paper should be *Rhadinopsylla (Ralipsylla) li transbaikalica* Ioff et Tiflov, not *Rhadinopsylla (Rectofrontia) acuminata* Ioff et Tiflov as printed.

2. In these circumstances the strict applications of the *Règles* to the present case would serve no useful purpose whatever: (1) it would involve the pedantic acceptance of something which was undoubtedly an error (namely, the application of the name *Rhadinopsylla (Rectofrontia) acuminata* Ioff and Tiflov, 1946, to the species to which those authors applied the number "62") and the equally pedantic rejection, as a homonym, of the same name as deliberately applied by those authors to the entirely different species referred to by them as species number "66"; (2) such action would lead to confusion in the nomenclature of these fleas, since the Russian workers would certainly not follow the strict application of the *Règles* in this matter. The present is therefore, in my opinion, pre-eminently a case where it would be appropriate for the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to use its Plenary Powers to give valid force to the evident intention of Ioff and Tiflov, when they wrote their paper in 1946, and to the consequent current practice of specialists in this group, for such action would promote uniformity and prevent the confusion which would otherwise occur in the nomenclature of this group. The proposal which I therefore now place before the Commission is that it should:—

(1) use its Plenary Powers:—

- (a) to suppress for the purposes both of the Law of Priority and of the Law of Homonymy the trivial name *acuminata* Ioff and Tiflov, 1946, *Med. Parasitol. Moscow* **15** (No. 4) : 91 as inadvertently published in the combination *Rhadinopsylla (Rectofrontia) acuminata*, and applied to the species there cited by those authors under the number "62";
- (b) to validate the foregoing trivial name (a) as published by the foregoing authors on the same page of the same work and in the same combination and (b) as deliberately applied by those authors to the species cited by them under the number "66";



- (2) place on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* (i) the trivial name *acuminata* Ioff and Tiflov, 1946, as published in the combination *Rhadinopsylla (Rectofrontia) acuminata*, as validated under (1)(b) above ; (ii) the subspecific trivial name *transbaikalica* Ioff and Tiflov, 1946, as published in the trinominal combination *Rhadinopsylla (Ralipsylla) li transbaikalica* (1946, *Med. Parisitol. Moscow*, **15** (No. 6) : 94) as a substitute name for *Rhadinopsylla (Rectofrontia) acuminata* applied in error to species No. 62 in *loc. cit.* (No. 4) : 91, suppressed under 1(a) above.
- (3) place on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* the trivial name *acuminata* Ioff and Tiflov, 1946, as inadvertently published in the combination *Rhadinopsylla (Rectofrontia) acuminata*, as suppressed under (1)(a) above.

## II.—THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

**2. Registration of the present application :** Upon the receipt of Mr. Hopkins' application, the problem of the accidental homonymy arising from the publication by Ioff and Tiflov in 1946 of the specific name *acuminata* in the combination *Rhadinopsylla (Rectofrontia) acuminata* for two species of flea was allotted the Registered Number Z.N.(S.)386.

**3. Publication of the present application :** The present application was sent to the printer on 1st January 1951 and was published on 15th August 1951 in Double-Part 9/10 of volume 2 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (Hopkins, 1951, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **2** : 296—297).

**4. Issue of Public Notices :** Under the revised arrangements approved by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **4** : 51—56), Public Notice of the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of its Plenary Powers in the present case was given on 15th August 1951, both in Double-Part 9/10 of volume 2 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, the Part in which Mr. Hopkins' application was published, and also

to the other prescribed serial publications. In addition, Public Notice was given to a number of entomological serial publications in Europe and America. The publication of these Notices elicited no objection to the action proposed.

### III.—THE DECISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

**5. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(32)34 :** On 9th May 1952, a Voting Paper (V.P.(52)34) was issued in which the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, the proposal "relating to the name *acuminata* Ioff & Tiflov, 1946, as published in the combination *Rhadinopsylla (Rectofrontia) acuminata*, as specified in Points (1) to (3) on page 297 of volume 2 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*" [i.e., in the Points set out in paragraph 2 of the application reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Opinion*].

**6. The Prescribed Voting Period :** As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the Three-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period closed on 9th August 1952.

**7. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(52)34 :** The state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(52)34 at the close of the Prescribed Voting Period was as follows :—

(a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following sixteen (16) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received) :*

Hering ; Riley ; Dymond ; Calman ; Hankó ;  
 Bonnet ; Vokes ; do Amaral ; Boschma ; Pearson<sup>1</sup> ;  
 Hemming ; Bradley ; Esaki ; Lemche ; Stoll ;  
 Cabrera ;

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<sup>1</sup> Commissioner Pearson exercised in this case the right conferred by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948, under which a Commissioner may, if he so desires, signify his willingness to support the view, or the majority view, of other members of the Commission (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 50—51).

(b) *Negative Votes* :

None ;

(c) *Voting Papers not returned, two (2)* :

Jaczewski ; Mertens.

**8. Declaration of Result of Vote** : On 10th August 1952, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(52)34, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 7 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

9. On 27th March 1954, Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(52)34.

10. The following are the original references for the names placed on the *Official Lists* and *Official Indexes* by the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

- acuminata*, *Rhadinopsylla* (*Rectofrontia*), Ioff & Tiflov, 1946,  
*Med. Parasitol. Moscow* **15** (No. 4) : 91, no. 62  
*acuminata*, *Rhadinopsylla* (*Rectofrontia*), Ioff & Tiflov, 1946,  
*Med. Parasitol. Moscow* **15** (No. 4) : 91, no. 66  
*transbaikalica*, *Rhadinopsylla* (*Ralipsylla*) *li*, Ioff & Tiflov, 1946,  
*Med. Parasitol. Moscow* **15** (No. 6) : 94

11. As the present case is concerned only with certain specific names and no question of the status of generic names is involved, the question of placing names on the *Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology* does not arise.



12. At the time of the adoption of the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*, the expression prescribed for the second portion of the binomen which constitutes the scientific name of a species was the expression "trivial name" and the *Official List* reserved for recording such names was styled the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*, the word "trivial" appearing also in the title of the *Official Index* reserved for recording rejected and invalid names of this category. Under a decision taken by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953, the expression "specific name" was substituted for the expression "trivial name" and corresponding changes were made in the titles of the *Official List* and *Official Index* of such names (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 21). The changes in terminology so adopted have been incorporated in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*.

13. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

14. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Three Hundred and Fourteen (314) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Twenty-Seventh day of March, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Four.

*Secretary to the International Commission  
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING

